

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

presenting a user interface in a display of a test system;

receiving user selection of user-selectable elements in the user interface pertaining to environment information of a target database system to extract from the target database system, the environment information including at least a number of nodes of the target database system;

receiving, by the test system, the environment information extracted based on the user selection from the target database system, wherein the test system is separate from the target database system; and

emulating the target database system in the test system using the received environment information.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein presenting the user interface comprises presenting plural screens each containing at least a graphical user interface element that is user selectable.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein presenting the screens comprises presenting a screen containing graphical user interface elements selectable by a user to select, for extraction, one of environment information associated with an entire database in the target database system and environment information associated with tables referenced by a query.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein receiving user selection of the user-selectable elements comprises receiving user selection of user-selectable elements corresponding to types of environment information to extract from the target database system.

7. – 9. (Cancelled)

1 10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising displaying the
2 environment information in the user interface.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein presenting the user interface
2 comprises providing a user-selectable element that when activated enables editing of the
3 environment information.

1 12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising storing the
2 received environment information in plural files.

1 13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein presenting the user
2 interface comprises presenting a user-selectable element that when activated causes the files to
3 be combined.

1 14. (Cancelled)

1 15. (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 38, wherein the software is
2 executable on the processor to export the environment information from the target database
3 system.

1 16. (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 38, wherein the user interface
2 comprises plural screens containing the user-selectable elements.

1 17. (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 16, wherein one of the plural
2 screens contains a first user-selectable element to indicate extraction of environment information
3 associated with a database of the target database system.

1 18. (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 17, wherein another one of the
2 plural screens contains a second user-selectable element to indicate extraction of environment
3 information associated with one or more tables associated with a query in the target database
4 system.

1 19. (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 18, wherein the other one of the
2 plural screens comprises a query selection element to select one or plural queries for which
3 environment information is to be extracted.

1 20. (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 19, wherein the query selection
2 element enables selection of the one or plural queries from a file.

1 21. (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 19, wherein the query selection
2 element enables selection of the one or more plural queries from a query capture database.

1 22. (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 38, wherein the user-selectable
2 elements indicate one or more types of the environment information to export.

1 23. (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 22, wherein the environment
2 information further comprises one or more of the following: statistics information, cost
3 information, information pertaining to definition of relations, and samples of data demographics
4 of access modules in the target database system.

1 24. (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 38, wherein the user-selectable
2 elements comprise an element to enable editing of the environment information.

1 25. (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 24, wherein the user-selectable
2 elements further comprise another element to undo editing of the environment information.

1 26. (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 24, wherein the software is
2 executable to display the environment information in the display.

1 27. (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 38, wherein the software is
2 executable to export the environment information from the target database system and
3 subsequently to import the environment information to a test system.

1 28. – 29. (Cancelled)

1 30. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 46, wherein the instructions when
2 executed cause the first system to present the user interface by presenting plural screens having
3 user-selectable elements.

1 31. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 30, wherein the instructions when
2 executed cause the first system to receive activation of the user-selectable elements to select
3 types of environment information to extract.

1 32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein receiving user selection
2 of user-selectable elements comprises receiving user selection of graphical user interface
3 elements selectable by a user to select, for extraction, environment information associated with
4 tables referenced by a query.

1 33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein receiving the
2 environment information further comprises receiving at least one of the following information:
3 number of processors per node, statistics, and random samples pertaining to demographics of
4 data stored in the target database system.

1 34. (Cancelled)

1 35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising generating an
2 execution plan for a query based on an emulated database environment created by emulating the
3 target database system.

1 36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising visually
2 displaying steps of the execution plan in the user interface.

1 37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the emulated database
2 environment comprises plural storage modules and plural access module processors to access, in
3 parallel, respective storage modules,
4 wherein generating the execution plan comprises generating the execution plan
5 for execution by the plural access module processors.

1 38. (Previously Presented) A first system comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a display;
4 software executable on the processor to present a user interface in the display,
5 the user interface comprising user-selectable elements to indicate environment
6 information to export from a target database system separate from the first system, the
7 environment information including at least one of a number of nodes of the target database
8 system, a number of processors per node, disk access speed, and network access speed; and
9 a controller to emulate the target database system based on the environment
10 information, the controller to generate an emulated database environment based on the
11 emulating.

1 39. (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 38, wherein the controller is
2 adapted to generate an execution plan in the emulated database environment.

1 40. (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 39, wherein the controller is
2 adapted to visually display the execution plan in the display.

1 41. (Previously Presented) The first system of claim 40, wherein the controller
2 comprises plural software modules.

1 42. (Previously Presented) A first system comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a display;
4 software executable on the processor to present a user interface in the display,
5 the user interface comprising user-selectable elements to indicate environment
6 information to export from a target database system separate from the first system, the
7 environment information including at least a number of nodes of the target database system; and
8 a controller to provide the environment information to a test system to enable
9 emulation of the target database system by the test system.

1 43. – 45. (Cancelled)

1 46. (Previously Presented) An article comprising at least one storage medium
2 containing instructions that when executed cause a first system to:
3 present a user interface;
4 receive user selection made in the user interface indicating environment
5 information to extract from a target database system separate from the first system;
6 receive the environment information extracted based on the user selection from
7 the target database system;
8 emulate the target database system based on the environment information; and
9 generate an execution plan for a query based on an emulated database
10 environment created by emulating the target database system.

1 47. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 46, wherein the instructions when
2 executed cause the first system to display steps of the execution plan in the user interface.

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1 48. (Cancelled)